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U of A instructor, alumnus win GG awards

Award-winning writers get rock-star treatment

By Geoff McMaster

A graduate of the University of Alberta's playwriting program and an instructor of elementary education have won Canada's top literary honour – the Governor General's Award.

Vern Thiessen took the drama award for his play, *Einstein's Gift*, produced to critical acclaim at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton earlier this year.

The play is an historical drama about the relationship between two famous German scientists, Albert Einstein and Fritz Habber, at the turn of the century. It is described by the award jury as "well-crafted, intelligent, thought-provoking, accessible and relevant, resonating far beyond the final page."

Glen Huser, an arts and education graduate who teaches a Faculty of Education course on using creative writing in the classroom, won in the category of children's literature for his young adult novel, *Stitches*. "With subtle yet confident strokes and an off-beat sense of humour, Huser's story makes it impossible not to care," said the jury.

Speaking from the celebrations at the Governor General's residence in Ottawa on the day of the awards, Thiessen said it had been tough keeping the award secret for three weeks. "Right now I'm just kind of relieved that I can talk about it," he said. "But I'm thrilled, and the Governor-General's office treats you like rock stars. The great honour, of course, is to be the first drama award from Edmonton, and to be in the esteemed company of all the people who have won in the past."

An actor, screenwriter, director and theatre educator, Thiessen graduated in 1992 from the U of A with an MFA in playwriting, a program which no longer

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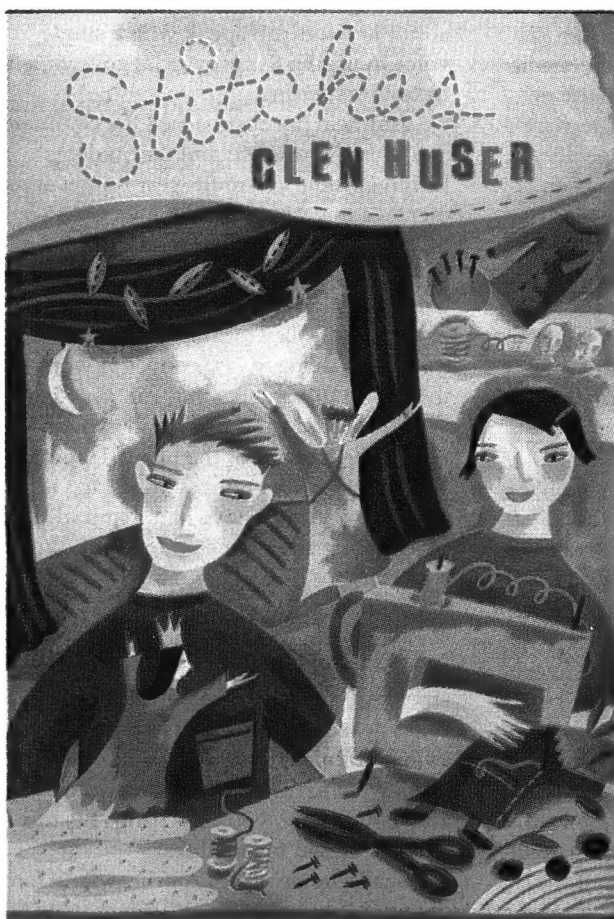
is about kids who are

different, bullying, and

homophobia in

small-town Alberta."

— Merle Harris



Glen Huser (top right) earned the Governor General's Award for Children's literature with his book *Stitches*. Alumnus Vern Thiessen received the award for his play *Einstein's Gift*.

exists. "Obviously I'm very proud to be a graduate of the University of Alberta," he said. The MFA program "was instrumental in my career. I'd written plays before that, but it was key in connecting me with the theatre community, and it also allowed me to learn how to teach."

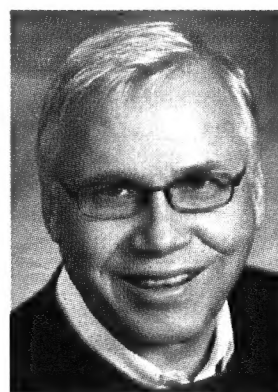
Dr. Michael Joyce, a post-doctoral candidate doing research on hepatitis B and C in Dr. Lorne Tyrrell's U of A lab, helped Thiessen with some of the scientific dialogue in the play. "There are a couple of scenes where the characters had to write

out some formulas and discuss the nature of light," said Joyce. "I had to make sure they were close enough – Vern had it mostly right."

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— Vern Thiessen

Playwriting Competition and Alberta Playwriting Competition.



Huser, winner for children's literature, is also a former instructor of library and information studies at the U of A. He said he felt similarly overwhelmed by the pomp and circumstance.

"Walking around on cloud nine is pretty substantial," said Huser of winning the award. The children's literature awards were announced at a special ceremony involving workshops with children: "They were a gifted class and they were being very complimentary," said Huser.

His novel, *Stitches*, tells the story of a teenage boy in junior high school who is "different from the herd" and likes to make puppets and put on puppet plays. "His best friend is a handicapped girl, not the typical friend for a 14-year-old boy, so the story deals with those differences," he said.

Local children's writer Merle Harris describes Huser's work as powerful and subtle at the same time. "He's a brilliant writer," she said. "He's very gentle and yet packs a punch. *Stitches* is about kids who are different, bullying, and homophobia in small-town Alberta.

"I think, having been a teacher/librarian, he really knows kids and what goes on in schools. He's able to write about it in a way that's meaningful. I read it, was blown away by it, left it and came back and read it again and it still had the same effect on me."

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson said of this year's crop of winners: "The excitement of reading these books is only matched by the admiration we all have for writers whose determination and talent are making Canadian literature a true reflection of the complex resonance of our country."

"The winning books are excellent examples of the strength of this country's literary culture, and demonstrate why Canadian books find large markets around the world."

Thiessen and Huser were among three local writers nominated for the GG awards. Along with the nomination of Tim Bowling for poetry, it was the first time that many writers from Edmonton had been nominated. ■

New Provost makes strong impression

Amrhein is increasingly impressed in his new job

By Richard Cairney

Michael Marrus tells a story about Carl Amrhein that teaches us something about the University of Alberta's new provost and vice-president (academic) and a thing or two about the U of A. When the two worked together at the University of Toronto, Amrhein as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and Marrus as dean of the School of Graduate Studies, they formed an unlikely alliance.

"His faculty was the great battleship, with a huge budget and prodigious responsibilities. I was like a tug boat," said Marrus. "My responsibilities are university wide, but my budget is relatively small – tiny, indeed, compared to his. And yet my job extended to matters close to the heart of arts and science. So there was every reason why we might not work well together. However, the very opposite was the case. Carl, I found, was a very model of collegiality."

The two met for breakfast about once a month, taking a regular seat at table 50 in the corner of a restaurant called Signatures at the Hotel Intercontinental.

"There were many deals struck in that restaurant – of real benefit, I believe, to the University of Toronto," added Marrus. Marrus' story makes it plain that Amrhein believes in collegiality. Amrhein's reaction says something about life at the U of A.

"I would tell Michael that collegiality



Provost and Vice President (Academic) Dr. Carl Amrhein speaks to members of the U of A Students' Union.

is not only here, it is here at the very core of the institution, in a way that I've simply not seen before," said Amrhein. "We not only talk about it here, we believe in it and we live it. It is really a concept that imbues the entire structure . . . it's something I've had to work hard to get to know and to understand."

Amrhein has found himself working hard to get his bearings on campus since his arrival in September. Three months later, on a Monday afternoon in mid-November, Amrhein was to have had his first free lunch hour. As usual, events conspired to rob him of the 60 minutes of freedom his staff had hoped to arrange for him: media interviews regarding the latest Maclean's rankings and a Folio interview interrupted.

Amrhein is accustomed to speaking with the media, but that role has been stepped up a notch at the U of A.

"What I'm still getting used to is the role in the media. The provost is the person commenting on the university's future, and I've had to gear up for that. This is a new level of responsibility, and getting calls from the ministry over headlines in the newspaper is something I've been getting used to."

There are other things that will take some getting used to as well. At the U of T, even as a dean, Amrhein still had time to teach, and he kept "some semblance of a research program." That seems unlikely here.

"I'm not sure how feasible it is to continue to have all those parts of my academic life," he said. "But I am going to try."

That sounds typical of Amrhein, who won't let anyone forget for an instant that the University of Alberta's first job is to teach. Although he suspects people "will get sick" of hearing him talk about the university's teaching mission, he has found the U of A's "star" professors pleased to hear the message.

"It is up to the university to create an environment where those who could go elsewhere decide to stay here," he said. "People who are at the top levels of research and teaching have many opportunities . . . they stay in a publicly funded university because that is what they believe in."

The same, he says, applies to administrative and support staff, who he hopes "view themselves as integral to the core missions of the university."

But everyone knows public funding represents one of the U of A's biggest challenges. And Amrhein lists core funding for the university – which has dropped to just over \$2 per \$1 of tuition from more than \$10 per \$1 of student tuition a decade ago – as one of the university's greatest obstacles. "If there is one thing I lose sleep over," he said,

"it's how to maintain the integrity of the university in the face of differential funding."

Another challenge the university faces stems from the core funding situation: the pressure to grow. "There are a lot of people out there who are desperate to see us grow so they can have their children or grandchildren educated at the U of A," he said. "But we can't continue to take additional students with no increase in base funding."

Amrhein is currently working with students to put aside the annual tuition debate so both students and university administrators can speak with a single voice in urging the provincial government to restore funding.

Amrhein has approached the Graduate Students' Association and the Students' Union to come to a multi-year tuition agreement – a novel approach that would also result in a greater voice for students in university governance. The initiative recently gained ground when the Students' Union changed its policy to support only tuition freezes, enabling SU executives to work for the lowest tuition hike they can negotiate.

"It's a bold move," GSA President Lee Skallerup said of the plan. "I want to involve students in decision-making at this university and we have had that tradition here, but he takes it a step forward. We are a priority for him."

Students' Union President Mat Brechtel says Amrhein is direct, and forceful in his opinions. "What he believes, he believes strongly," said Brechtel. "And it's good to know what you want, but at the same time, in an administrative position flexibility is often what saves you. So if someone makes an air-tight case, you can change his mind. He isn't closed to new ideas."

Skallerup describes Amrhein as "a force of nature" because "he gets things done."

Amrhein's colleagues at University Hall say the same thing. Phyllis Clark, the university's vice-president (finance and administration), says Amrhein "didn't have time for a learning curve" and still manages to do the right things, including dressing up at Halloween and passing candies out to his co-workers.

"He has all the right instincts," she said. "He instantly understood the U of A's culture of inclusiveness and collegiality. He's feisty and wants to get things done, and not once have I heard him try to tell us how they do things in Toronto."

Yet the fact that Amrhein held such an important position at the U of T helps, Skallerup says.

"He comes from one of the few peers we have in this country in terms of large research-intensive institutions . . . so there is really that level of experience. He

knows what can be effective and what isn't. He doesn't need to use the U of A as a guinea pig."

Amrhein has also made life easier for doctoral students by announcing a \$1.6-million initiative to lighten their financial load. The new Provost's Entrance Award, unveiled in late October, will grant 160 awards to incoming doctoral students and 140 awards to doctoral students entering their second year of studies, starting in September 2004.

So it's no surprise that Amrhein has trouble finding a free hour for lunch. But he isn't complaining. His staff, he says, make sure he has time to spend with his family. He, his wife Ellen and their three sons – Steven, 18, Peter, 14 and David, 11 – are settling into their new home. Amrhein and his sons are turning the basement into a fitness centre of sorts, spending evenings and weekends framing and drywalling. The Amrheins' sons are a handful – they're into mountain biking, snowboarding and skiing. The family is planning a ski trip to Jasper, but Carl says he and his wife are "extreme walkers."

At work, "all of the surprises have been good," he says. But if there is one more matter Amrhein feels needs urgent attention, it's the U of A's image in central Canada. It may be the "central Canadian moves west syndrome," he said, but the more he learns about the U of A, the more impressed he is by the calibre of research and teaching here.

Amrhein had always been impressed by the U of A but was under the assumption that it achieved the success it had because of a strong funding environment. "From Ontario, the Alberta system looks well-funded."

That the university compares so favourably to its national and international peers, given its actual funding conditions, makes its achievements that much greater. "The movers and shakers in Ottawa need to come to respect the U of A for its achievements," he said. "I don't think they fully understand what we have here." ■

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Saints for the modern age

Lady Di and Elvis are worshipped, but will they endure?

By Geoff McMaster

Forget Mother Teresa. The real saints of the 20th century are Elvis and Lady Di, at least in the estimation of Dr. Stephen Reimer.

The University of Alberta professor of English isn't claiming the celebrity icons walk the same moral high ground as the recently beatified nun of Calcutta. Far from it. Only that the stories constructed around the lives of Diana and Elvis bear a striking resemblance to narratives of medieval saints, narratives which not only make their subjects larger than life, but which ignore historical accuracy in favour of moral purity.

"My interest is this perceived need to tell the story of Elvis in forms which make him sinless and saintly," said Reimer. "One of the things which a saint's legend will generally not include is evidence of moral culpability or reprehensible behaviour, unless some sufficient excuse for mitigation can be offered at the same time. I find it interesting to watch how a legend is created from an historical figure."

Reimer, who has spent time examining the Anglo-Saxon figure of Saint Edmond, King of East Anglia during the ninth century, says narratives are created, told, and retold until they seem more accurate than the historical record.

"What we know of St. Edmond from the historical record is this – he died." We don't even know how he died, adds Reimer. "The legend as recounted by John Lydgate, however, is an elaborate birth-to-death biography of a poor boy from Germany who became King of East Anglia and died a particularly gruesome death." This 'vita' or biography of Edmond also includes miracles attributed to him after his death.

In the legend "he is a marvelous and high-principled figure," said Reimer, "primarily to be praised for his virginity and pacifism. They seem to me to be virtues peculiarly ill-suited for driving out Viking hordes."

Followers of Elvis have in a similar way revised the historical record, including accounts of his alleged drug use, to make him fit a purer, more messianic image. All of his purported transgressions, for example, were erased in the 1984 book *Elvis, Why Don't they Leave You Alone*, by May Mann.

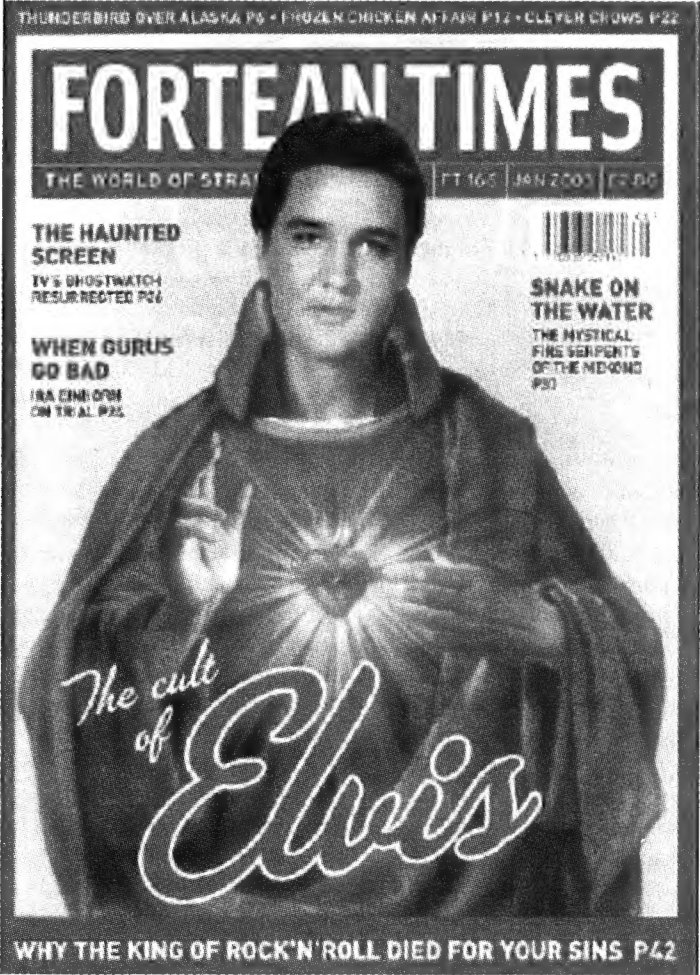
It's a story of "a dirt-poor southern boy who rose to fame and glory, a story of the love of son for mother, of humility and generosity and superhuman achievement in the face of adversity – it's a vita of a saint," said Reimer.

Another reverent writer has described Elvis' leg-shaking dance moves as primarily spiritual, stemming from the exaltation of southern gospel, rather than having anything to do with the erotic.

"In insisting that Elvis' sexuality was really spirituality, and his groin is really responding to the gospel, (the author) is

One of the things which a saint's legend will generally not include is evidence of moral culpability or reprehensible behaviour, unless some sufficient excuse for mitigation can be offered at the same time. I find it interesting to watch how a legend is created from an historical figure."

– Dr. Stephen Reimer



The media has made images and stories of pop culture figures more readily available, intensifying the public's relationship with them.

doing to Elvis posthumously what Ed Sullivan did for him on TV – cutting off his sexuality at the waist in order to sanctify him." Sullivan once referred to Elvis as "a real decent fine boy" after an appearance on his show.

Dr. Brendan Leier of St. Joseph's College argues that it was the rise of mass media, and especially the birth of television, that had much to do with creating the Elvis icon.

"Elvis figured predominantly in what was focused on the first time people got a live shot of someone on television. He was someone larger than life... That burned Elvis into the popular subconscious." Leier points out that before images were made widely available, before the printing press for instance, the most widely circulated icons were those represented in churches.

"When images become freer and cheaper to produce," he said, "the content of the image starts to change." Before a mass cultural industry, he says, people would have been most familiar with saints and royalty: "And I guess Diana is a carry-over from that tradition."

In discussing Reimer's argument with his classes in values and society, Leier said he drew, on the blackboard, a common image of Saint Francis of Assisi and asked his students to identify it. They guessed right not only because the image is so recognizable – "the half-bald guy, the robe, talking to a duck" – but because it contains the narrative ingredients of Assisi's story: "Everything about a saint is told in the meaning of the image."

"People recognize Elvis on velvet paintings because of his likeness, but is there a story that goes with it that's going to persist through the next 40 years? His

popularity is waning, and if the message of Elvis as the rebel of rock-and-roll is lost in this historical mythology and the Elvis on velvet paintings – and there are other rebels of rock-and-roll – then he may not have staying power."

Diana too has sacred pilgrimage sites in Paris and London, and a cult of relics, says Reimer. "She receives offerings and her

devotees feel a strong personal and spiritual connection to her. She is a spiritual mentor and comforter to them." She has been identified as an underdog who is "more sinned against than sinning," and many have described her as a "healing angel."

Elton John's revision of the song *Candle in the Wind* characterizes Diana as an angel, with "wings of compassion." The inscription on her urn, in true saintly fashion, reads,

"Whenever you call to me – I will come to your aid."

However, Leier regards Diana's saintly stature with skepticism as well. He acknowledges that, unlike Elvis, she at least dedicated her life to some worthwhile causes, such as visiting children in hospitals and campaigning for the removal of land mines. Her death even eclipsed that of Mother Teresa in 1997. But whether Diana survives in the long run is by no means certain.

"There is the impression she persevered through great times of hardship and came out the other side, still a princess even though she wasn't a member of the royal family any more," said Leier. "She has a kind of exemplary life as far as royals go, but I would argue that, like Elvis, her popularity will fade."

What separates Elvis and Diana from other celebrities of our age, at least for

"He was this terrible philanderer, almost an embarrassment to the secret service, addicted to amphetamines and basically high the whole time he was dealing with the Cuban missile crisis."

– Dr. Brendan Leier

the time being, is the sheer scale of their following, the excessive nature of fan adoration, says Reimer. Some 50,000 people make the pilgrimage to Graceland every year. Fans have stolen Elvis' urine and blood samples from hospitals, combed through carpets at Graceland looking for toenail clippings, and have left homes far away to "cling to his grave."

Medieval saint expert Dr. John Kitchen agrees that popular sainthood can be far more persuasive and lasting than official canonization by the church, and has been for centuries. Moreover, the hysteria we now see surrounding superstars is also anything but new.

Take a look at people in the throes of Beatlemania, he says (and the Beatles were, as John Lennon declared much to his own regret, more popular than Jesus Christ) and compare that with the descriptions of what goes on at a saint's tomb. "It's a very similar response, people fainting and going crazy."

Secular sainthood is a thorny issue, to say the least. Aside from Mother Teresa, Leier points to one figure whose image is arguably the most recognized in the world, especially in less developed countries – the Cuban revolutionary Che Guavara.

"Guavara is much more like a secular saint, because he wasn't popular and charismatic in a public sense, in the way celebrities are, but his moral integrity was unquestionable. He had almost the same life as a saint."

"He grows up in a fairly well-to-do family and becomes a physician, then has this experience travelling through South America with his friend. He witnesses the suffering of the world, and this forever changes his world view. He commits the rest of his life to what he conceives as the best way of liberating these suffering people. And his message is just as relevant nowadays with this massive globalization effort that seems to be taking place on all fronts."

On the other side of the coin is a morally dubious figure whose life "has been sanitized more than anyone," said Leier – John F. Kennedy. "He was this terrible philanderer, almost an embarrassment to the secret service, addicted to amphetamines and basically high the whole time he was dealing with the Cuban missile crisis. He had a rough life, but his regime, family and reign were compared to another king that didn't exist (King Arthur)."

Morally qualified or not, what the modern-day saint offers us, more than anything else is "imagined intimacy," said Reimer. "There is a perception of closeness, of intimate knowledge of secrets shared. Mostly it's a feeling that this face which you've seen a thousand times must be the face of a close friend." And at the same time, he says, we have a "basic human need" to identify with life lived to the extreme.

But does that mean Elvis and Diana are stand-out role models for the modern age?

"It's pretty hard to say, 'I want to be like Elvis or Diana' without a certain sense of kitch along with it," said Leier. ■

Beijing's political reform has yet to get off the ground

China advances in many ways, but not politically

By Wenran Jiang

While China is celebrating the successful launch of its first manned spacecraft into orbit, there is indication that its political reform program is grounded for now.

The Chinese leadership considered the Third Plenum of the 16th Chinese Communist Party so significant that it planned the session right up to the day before China sent its first astronaut into space. But unlike the excitement the space mission generated, the 300-plus CCP elites emerged from behind the doors after four days with little to deliver.

Because many Third Plenums of the CCP Congress have occupied a unique position in China's recent history, this session was built up with high expectations. It has been compared to the epoch-making Third Plenum of the 11th Party Congress in 1978 when Deng Xiaoping implemented his reform agenda that put China on the road to rapid economic growth. It was also leveled with the Third Plenum of the 14th Congress in 1993 when President Jiang Zemin presided over the systemic adaptation of the market economy.

So it is not surprising that the latest third plenum was also heavily focused on economic development strategies and goals. The meeting approved a document that is designed to improve the "socialist market economic system," provide better protection to private ownership and pri-

vate property, give non-state enterprises more opportunities, consolidate family-based rural economic management, and co-ordinate the regional development of the western and northeastern parts of the country.

But this is a meeting where what didn't happen was as important as, if not more than, what happened.

First, President Hu Jintao could not get rid of Jiang's shadow. Some speculated that Jiang might either retire from his post as the chairman of both military commissions of the CCP and the government, or be forced out at the meeting, thus completing the transition of power at the very top that began nearly a year ago. What we saw instead was, again, a very cautious Hu reciting traditional party ideology from Mao to Deng to the "Three Presents" theory.

Hu either chose consensus building over consolidation of his own power base, or simply was not strong enough to overcome Jiang's supporters. This will affect Hu's ability to govern in certain areas. And the history of the CCP's transitional politics has demonstrated that there is still a bumpy road ahead for Hu to become his own man.

Second, the secretive meeting seemed unable to go beyond a narrow range on the revision of the constitution. Since the very beginning of his taking over from Jiang

last November, Hu has made a personal mark on the importance of the constitution. Some intellectuals have taken up the call to conduct research on revision and have made concrete recommendations.

But the plenum's long communique devoted very little to this subject. In reference to the proposal on revising parts of the country's constitution, it has only two small paragraphs, indicating in vague terms that some of the "important theoretical views," affirmed by the CCP's 16th Party Congress last November will be written into the constitution.

This ambiguity is further illustrated by a People's Daily editorial published in celebration of the meeting. It completely ignored the issue of constitutional revision other than mentioning the proposal as one of the two adopted documents. And neither of the two plenum documents clearly indicated whether the widely expected guarantee of private property and private ownership would be recommended by the CCP to be written into the constitution.

Third, the latest party meeting failed collectively in envisioning a broad political reform program that is much needed for Chinese society today. In the several months leading to the meeting, there were active and widespread discussions on issues such as the revision of the constitution, the expansion of grass-roots level

democratic elections, intra-party democracy, a functioning accountability system for government officials and more strict measures for fighting corruption.

There is little mention of these issues in the official communique. As one critic wrote on the discussion forum of the official *People's Daily* website: "If the reform of the political system is not carried out, there will be more problems with further economic development."

The party elites, however, have decided to avoid political reform for now. If anything, the latest conference reaffirms a long-held CCP belief that its legitimacy can be maintained without political reform as long as it can deliver economic prosperity to most of the population. That is a short-sighted vision in China's new space age.

The CCP must realize that the only way to combat rampant corruption, a widening gap between rich and poor, growing unemployment, widespread resentment and other social problems is to implement genuine democratic reform. China cannot sustain its economic miracle and its space mission without a successful political reform program. ■

(Wenran Jiang, twice a Japan Foundation Fellow, is a political science professor in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta. This column first appeared in The Japan Times.)

Economic shock and awe

Klein decries the pillaging of Iraq

By Geoff McMaster

The American-led reconstruction of Iraq is a front for a hostile economic takeover of the war-torn nation that is "nothing short of armed robbery," says activist and best-selling author Naomi Klein.

"Iraq is not being rebuilt – it is actually being erased," she said recently at an annual Parkland Institute conference on the University of Alberta campus. "The companies that are going into Iraq to rebuild it are actually going there to buy it. Iraq is being transformed into the world's largest shopping mall. It's the sale of the century – bomb it, then buy it."

Klein argued the true but largely unreported agenda of the U.S. government's campaign in Iraq is now coming to light since false pretenses such as routing out terrorism have been exposed. The real motive behind U.S. President George W. Bush's war has always been economic, she said, a fact even Bush no longer denies.

"Bush has said he wants a free trade zone in the Middle East in the next 10 years. And it starts with Iraq – it's a foothold, the wedge into the region."

Klein, whose best-selling book *No Logo: Taking aim at the Brand Bullies* has been translated into 27 languages, gave the concluding lecture at the Parkland Institute's *Challenging Empire* conference, Nov. 14 – 16, a weekend of discussion around issues of citizenship, sovereignties and self-determination.

She claimed Iraq is falling victim to what she calls "McGovernment," a systematic plan of mass down-sizing, mass privatization and mass deregulation, all allowing powerful multi-national corporations to exploit local economies with little restriction. In their thirst for economic growth,

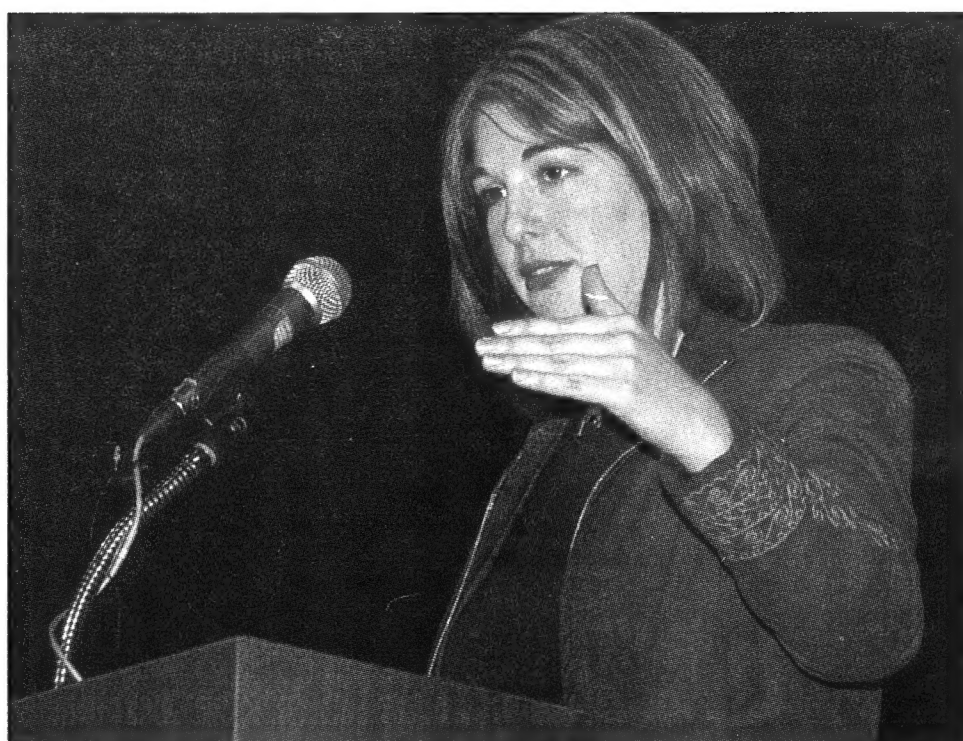
likened by Klein to a drug addiction, these corporations and their government allies are grabbing at anything they can turn into a commodity.

"The real goal is, I believe, now clear," said Klein. "It is not to rebuild Iraq's roads but to turn them into privately owned highways. Not to simply reconstruct the bombed-out water system but get taxpayers to fund the reconstruction and then sell the water system to a company like Bechtel (a construction corporation). It's not about putting out oil fires and rebuilding pipelines, but of course, selling them off entirely. This is the brutal new face of free trade."

In his first month in the country, said Klein, the American-appointed civil leader in Iraq, Paul Bremmer, launched a "full-scale attack" on the country's public sector, firing huge numbers of public servants. The downsizing created a huge, "flexible" labour force willing to work for less. Unemployment now stands at 70 per cent in the country.

Most damaging to the local economy, however, was the dissolution of trade barriers. Instead of aiding Iraqi manufacturers by restoring electricity, phones and helping repair equipment after two wars and more than a decade of trade sanctions, one of the first moves Bremmer made, said Klein, was to declare that Iraq was "open for business." "What that meant was that, overnight, the domestic market was flooded with cheap televisions, clothes and CDs. Hundreds of Iraqi companies were wiped out."

The Bush administration has also handed out a number of lucrative reconstruction contracts, such as a \$1-billion deal it signed



Journalist and author Naomi Klein says the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq has more to do with money than security.

with Bechtel and a \$3-billion contract with Halliburton, the oil services company U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney ran before taking office.

Bush, Defence Minister Donald Rumsfeld and Bremmer "openly admit that they now envision the reconstruction of Iraq as the remaking of Iraq as a de-regulated dream economy," said Klein. What is billed as bringing democracy to the country is actually "a mad race against democracy," she added, as they aim to "push through very radical economic reform before there is any semblance of democracy in Iraq."

While offering her vision of American-led "economic reform through shock and awe" as merely the sharp edge of a global movement towards mass privatization, Klein concluded there was still hope for resisting what she views as U.S. imperialism.

"Empires tend to be most dangerous when they are most desperate – right before they fall," she said. Moreover, "all the policies I've described here tonight are illegal. I understand this is not a priority for the Bush administration, but that doesn't mean we can't use international law to resist U.S. empire." ■

New molecules for the future, old questions about the past

Gow and Tykwinski share research awards

By Richard Cairney

A chemist who makes new molecules in his lab and a history and classics professor whose research was inspired by a simple childhood question have been awarded the Martha Cook Piper Research Prize.

Dr. Rik Tykwinski from the University of Alberta Department of Chemistry and Dr. Andrew Gow from the Department of History and Classics were presented with the U of A awards earlier this week. The awards, named after former U of A vice president (research), recognize outstanding young researchers whose work has had an impact in their field of study.

Gow's research focuses on the roots of anti-Semitism and Christian misconceptions of Judaism. His interest in the subject was sparked from a childhood game.

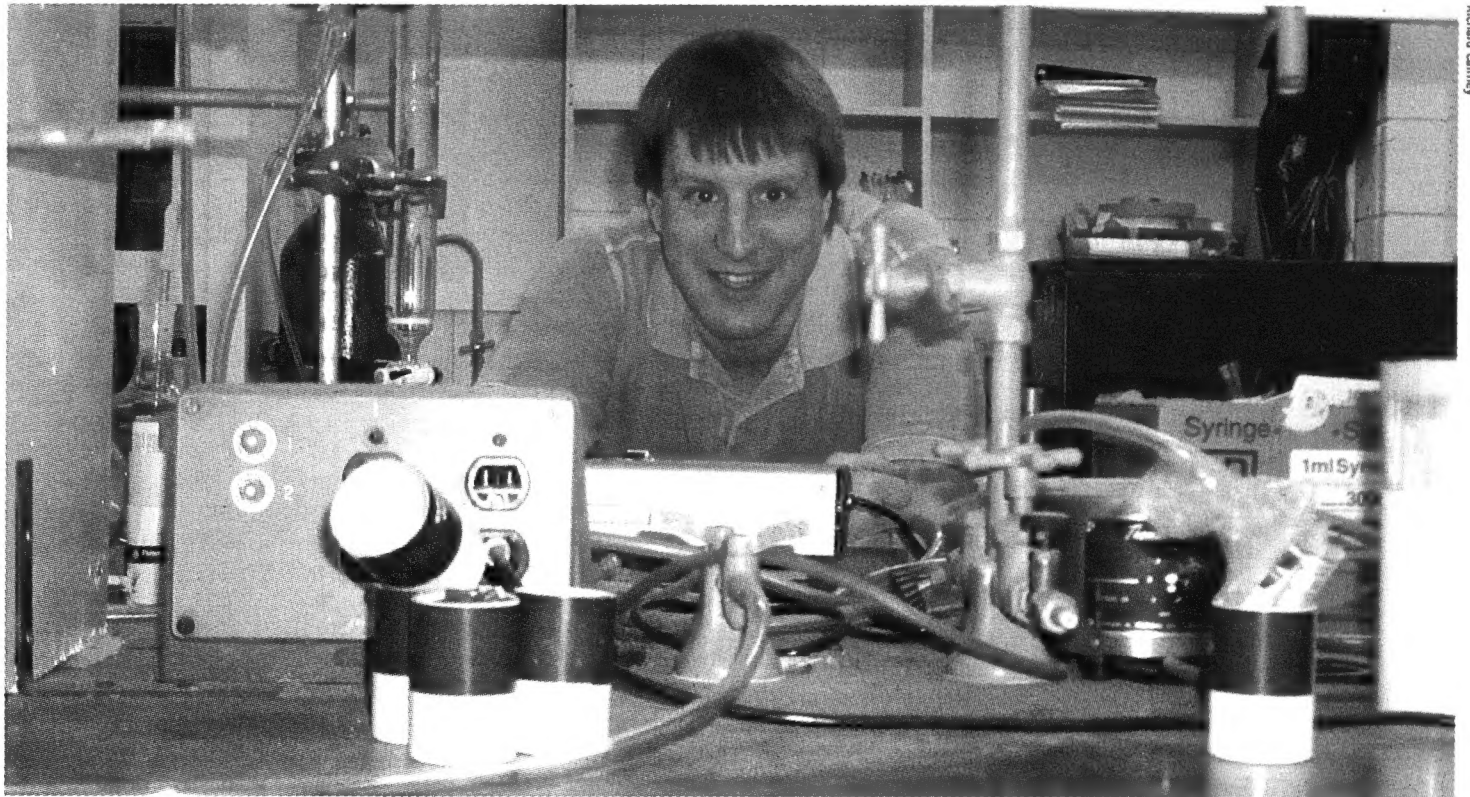
The neighbourhood Gow grew up in was almost entirely Jewish and Holocaust survivors living on the same street objected to a game he and his friends played, called 'searchlight'. The premise of the game was simple: one kid with a flashlight would seek out playmates in the dark.

"The lights we were shining on their houses were just like the search lights playing across the barracks (in concentration camps), so they asked us to stop," said Gow. "We couldn't understand why until someone told us it was just like being in barracks.

"I was intrigued by the power of memory and the fact that the past was still alive for these people – it wasn't something they could conveniently forget and get over. It was alive in the memories of their everyday life."

Gow's "historical awakening" eventually led him to publish *The Red Jews: Antisemitism in an Apocalyptic Age, 1200 – 1600*. Published by Brill, the book is a study of an imaginary people, the Red Jews, conjured in the minds of medieval Christians as servants of the Antichrist. Gow's research took him through poetry, epic literature, scripture, and maps. His research in maps led to the publication of several articles and contributions to the study of cartography.

The Red Jews, Gow says, were cited on maps dating as far back as the 10th century and as late as the early 18th century. But the myth of the Red Jew is alive and well. American Christian fundamentalist Jerry Falwell said in 1999 that the Antichrist is living among us; right-wing Christians believe that, as prophesized, all the Jews



Dr. Rik Tykwinski has been awarded the Martha Cook Piper Research Prize, along with History and Classics professor Dr. Andrew Gow.

in the world will return to Israel to aid the Antichrist. On the battle of Armageddon, they will either convert to Christianity or die.

Belief in the myth is held at the highest levels of the U.S. government, says Gow.

"The one current practical application of my research is to demonstrate that the medieval origins of this piece of Evangelical theology is not scriptural, but a much later man-made interpretation, and that it is extremely dangerous."

Gow has earned a reputation for crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries. "I just went wherever I needed to go," said Gow, whose academic background, fortunately, allowed him to translate texts written in medieval dialects. "And what I do with my grad students is workshop topics best suited to them – not just their interests and courses but their life skills and their experiences and their way of approaching the world. It is true a person can retrain themselves in mid-career so that a geologist can become a physicist."

And when it comes to working with students, Rik Tykwinski is also known to go the extra mile. He has taken on high school students in mentorship programs

and five of the papers he published last year included undergraduate students as co-authors.

"The chemistry department as a whole has a tremendous amount of undergraduate research," he said. "Our students, both graduate and undergraduate, are top-notch."

Tykwinski is highly regarded as a teacher too, says department chair Dr. Martin Cowie.

"Synthetic chemists like to make new molecules. You can think of synthesis as kind of like playing with a really cool set of Legos" Tykwinski said, trying to explain his work in the simplest terms possible. "But instead of using little coloured plastic blocks, we use atoms or collections of atoms as our building blocks."

If Tykwinski and his colleagues wanted to build, say, a molecular wire, they'd go through a sort of trial-and-error process to construct a series or family of molecules, then explore its special characteristics to discover which aspects of the molecule make it behave in ways the researchers want it to.

And what might that be? Tykwinski is interested in photonics, the technology of

using light to acquire, store, transmit and process information.

"This is a rapidly developing area that could do for the next century what electronics has done for the past century," he said.

To break into that frontier, new and innovative materials need to be designed to interact with and control light.

"One of the most important aspects of this work would be to generate a new material that could be used to switch, optically, the direction of light. This would allow us to control light in a way that is currently done using electronic devices, but much faster and more efficiently."

The development of such materials is "in its infancy," and optical computing "is still decades away," but Tykwinski's field of research is essential to its development.

And the U of A is the place to be to conduct that work, Tykwinski said.

"There is no better place than the U of A to carry out that research," he said. "And it's amazing that I'd get a prize for just doing what I love to do every day. You never know what kind of discovery you're going to make – you don't know what's going to happen from day to day." ■

Four profs earn national teaching awards

Passion for field of study, care for students rewarded

By Bev Betkowski

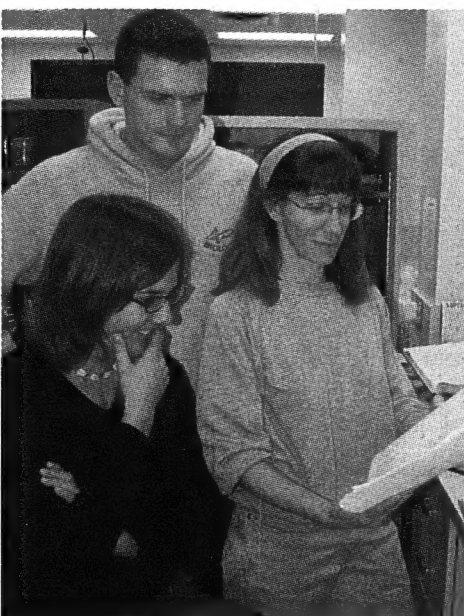
Their pep talks, pats on the back, and general love of passing on knowledge has earned four University of Alberta professors national teaching awards.

"The connection is what is important," said Dr. Jeanette Boman, professor in the U of A Faculty of Nursing. "Some of that can happen on an emotional level. My own philosophy is one of respecting and valuing another as I want to be respected and valued."

Boman, who has taught at the university since 1980, won an award for teaching excellence from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. Other U of A professors to recently win teaching awards include Dr. Dylan Taylor of Faculty of Medicine and dentistry's division of cardiology, Dr. Andy Liu of the U of A Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, and Dr. Heather Proctor of the Department of Biological Sciences.

The various awards recognize the commitment and quality each has brought to their field.

Taylor, a cardiologist at the U of A



Dr. Heather Proctor of the Department of Biological Sciences (right) received the Entomological Society of Canada's C. Gordon Hewitt Award. Three other U of A professors have earned national teaching awards this month.

Hospital, received one of the country's top teaching awards from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society for his expertise and dedication to advanced education and training of his students. Besides the vital technical knowledge he must teach his students, Taylor said he also strives to teach them on a human level.

"Respect for their patients and colleagues will earn them respect and confidence in return. In the patient-physician relationship the lack of the key ingredient of respect is most often the factor that leads to tension," he said.

Liu, winner of two awards, strives to fire up students' excitement for numbers.

"I spend some time doing pep talks. You're trying to motivate students. A lot of times they are there because they were told to be there. The challenge is to make them see why they need to understand the material and not just go through the motions."

He is receiving the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award from the Mathematical Association of America for excellence in teaching at the college

level, and an award from the Canadian Mathematical Society 2003 Adrien Pouliot Award for his contribution to math education. Liu joined the U of A in 1980 to teach math, but extended his scope to include speaking at schools and conferences. In July, he led a Canadian team to the International Mathematics Olympiad in Japan.

For Proctor, good teaching keeps knowledge alive and well. She began teaching at the U of A last year and her dedication to the field has earned her the C. Gordon Hewitt Award from the Entomological Society of Canada. The award recognizes an entomologist under the age of 40 for outstanding abilities in teaching, supervising graduate students, and promoting their field, often through a wide range of published work.

"Teaching helps you live your own joy of discovery," she said. "Unless you want to communicate what you've found, you won't be a good scientist. I have always wanted to pass on my enthusiasm for what I've seen in my little bugs." ■

Students start car pool for all campus commuters

Plan addresses parking and environmental issues

By Ryan Smith

Joseph Henke and Geneva Rae want people on campus to get in the pool – the University of Alberta car pool.

Henke and Rae are founders and supporters of the new U of A Car Pool Registry, an initiative developed this fall to decrease traffic and parking problems, improve our environment and save students and staff money.

The registry is run by the Students' Union Information Services office and is available to anyone who commutes to the U of A and area.

Robyn Cloghesy is already in; now she's waiting for others to join her. The first-year rehabilitation medicine student drives to the U of A from her north-central Edmonton home. No one yet has accepted her offer for a regular ride to and from campus.

"It's disappointing," she said. "I have a car, and it's not a big deal to go a little out

of my way to pick someone up. I'm sure some people need a ride – it's freezing out there."

"We had a car pool registry a few years ago, but it wasn't funded very well and never made it online before it died," said Henke, associate director (information) of information services. "This past summer ECOS (the U of A Environment Co-ordination Office of Students) did a sustainability study and drummed up enthusiasm for the car pool idea again. We looked in our budget and saw we had money for it, so now we have it."

"We surveyed students and found out the two top environmental concerns on campus are accessible transportation and recycling, so the car pool idea is a way to address the first environmental concern that students have," said Rae, director of ECOS.

Cloghesy said she lives too far away to ride her bike to campus, and taking the bus would add about 45 minutes each way to her commuting time. Also, she doesn't want to walk the three blocks from the bus stop when she goes home alone late at night.

"I think the car pool is a great idea. It's a chance to save costs and meet other people from the U of A," she said. "I hope it works out."

The registry is simple to use. People can sign up and specify whether they are looking for a ride or looking for passengers. The city is divided into zones based on the main roads to campus, and registrants from the same zones can contact



U of A car pool organizers Joseph Henke and Geneva Rae say a university-wide car pool will help clear up traffic congestion and address environmental issues.

each other to set up their own pools. The U of A's Information Services does not screen registrants, so users are cautioned to take appropriate steps when setting up the pools.

"It's a good idea to ask a few questions, such as asking what the other person does at the U of A," Henke said. "After a pool is set up, it's also a good idea to try it out as a trial for a week or two. One person may like listening to the radio in the morning and the

other person doesn't, so maybe that particular arrangement wouldn't work out."

"You really have to communicate and set a few ground rules before you start, such as how long to wait if someone doesn't show up on time," Henke added. "But when things work out well, it can be a great way to meet people and feel a part of the community, as well as save money and do something good for the environment." ■

Smarter than your average gas guzzler

U of A in national effort to design a smart engine valve

By Geoff McMaster

Imagine a car that runs on more than one type of fuel and is smart enough to decide which one to burn under which conditions. It's a reality which could be just down the road.

Drs. Dave Checkel and Bob Koch of the University of Alberta Department of Mechanical

Engineering are working on a way to control engine valves electronically, so that fuel can be burned more efficiently and according to operating conditions.

Engine valves, which release a mixture of fuel and air into cylinders where it is burned, are normally operated mechanically

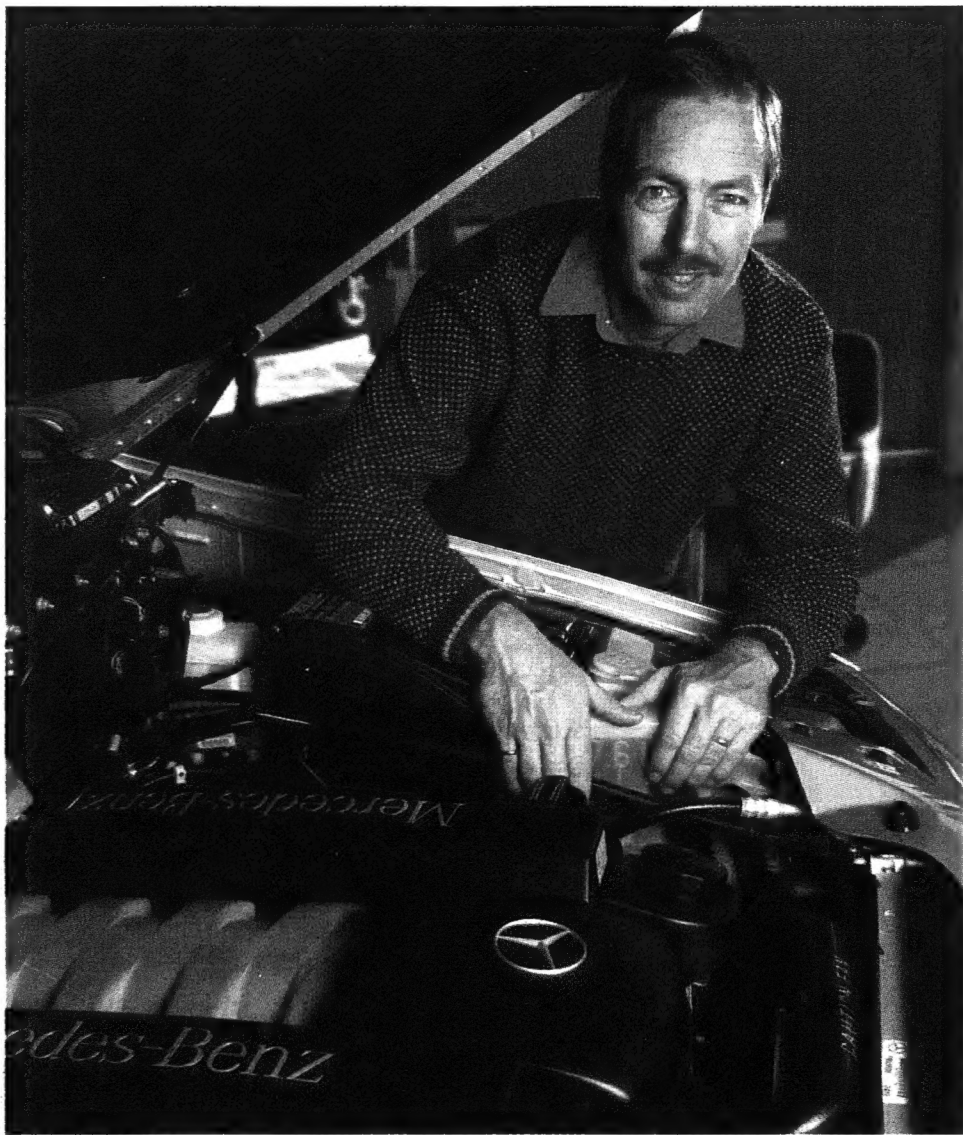
according to fixed time rates set by a cam. "As the engine changes speed or load, it would really be desirable to change the timing," said Checkel.

"After 130 years of engine development, (the auto industry) has started to use variable valve timing systems, but they are still mechanical," he said. "We're looking at going beyond that to fully variable valve timing which is all electronically controlled."

Checkel, Koch and a team of researchers from Simon Fraser University and the University of Windsor have received grants totalling \$986,000 from the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence – a fed-

"After 130 years of engine development, (the auto industry) has started to use variable valve timing systems, but they are still mechanical. We're looking at going beyond that to fully variable valve timing which is all electronically controlled."

– Dr. Dave Checkel



Dr. David Checkel is part of a national research program to develop 'smart' automobile engines that can run on more than one type of fuel and decide which to use, depending on driving conditions.

eral program that supports auto-related research at universities across the country – and the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

They've also received \$50,000 from Ford Canada and some parts supplied by Mercedes Benz.

Researchers elsewhere have already developed electrically activated valves tripped by an electromagnet, says Checkel, but controlling the electromagnets has yet to be accomplished. "When you open or close something with a magnet, it happens very violently, and ends with a bang." The aim of Checkel's project is to precisely control the current in the electromagnet so that it opens and closes with just the right amount of force.

"We have to soft-land it by adjusting the current at just the right time and right amount. It's tricky, and the worst part is you have to do it millions of times over the lifetime of the vehicle in every conceivable operating condition of speed, load, etc. And we have to do it pretty much perfectly every time."

Ideally, the variable valve-timing system would run exceptionally well on high-octane fuel, but would also run successfully on low-grade fuels, such as those developed from tar sands. "In fact there are some engine operating modes which are great for efficiency and emissions and that work even better with low-grade fuel," said Checkel. Such a mode – which a vehicle might switch to, for instance, once it's cruising down the highway – would work much like a diesel engine.

Checkel and Koch have two masters students doing preliminary work on controlling the currents to the valves, and hope to also employ a couple of undergraduate students in the summer.

"It's really good to be tying together a larger group of people," Checkel said of the collaboration with Windsor and Simon Fraser. "And it's going to be good for our students. One of the things they'll do is spend some exchange time visiting each other in other places." ■

Exploring language across cultures

CFI, ASRIP, Faculty of Arts commit more than \$1 M to language study

By Geoff McMaster

The name hardly rolls trippingly on the tongue. But the University of Alberta's new Centre for Comparative Psycholinguistics is already taking the study of language into new territory.

The university's linguistics department has long been a leader in the field of psycholinguistics, or the study of language representation and processing in the mind. The comparative slant, however, is relatively new according to the centre's director, Dr. Gary Libben.

"Although we can, with humility, say that we had excellence on the ground with respect to psycholinguistics...we realized that we have strength to do it in a new way with populations that have not yet been investigated," said Libben, who does work on "what it means for human beings to have a vocabulary."

"We know a lot about English, Dutch, German and Italian – those are the languages that have been most studied," he said. "We know less about processing in Japanese and Chinese, and absolutely nothing about how Aboriginal languages are processed."

Hence the crucial need for research like Dr. Sally Rice's celebrated Daghida Project, aimed at resurrecting a dying Chipewyan language in the Cold Lake First Nations Community. Or Dr. David Beck's work documenting an endangered language in Mexico with the goal of producing a dictionary. These are just two examples that fall outside of the Euro-centric focus of traditional linguistics, but which may teach us a great deal about the human capacity for language acquisition.

"We obviously have something as human beings that allows us to learn languages," said Libben. "If you're born in

China, you'll learn Chinese. If you're born in Finland, you're going to learn Finnish. But we have to extract from the situation what it is that allows us to do that."

In addition to shedding light on the acquisition, phonetics, psycholinguistics, and structure of local minority languages, researchers also hope to learn more about language disorders such as aphasia, a loss of speech or understanding of language, and dyslexia, a 'reading disorder'. Along with his colleague, Dr. Chris Westbury, Libben is developing a new protocol for the study of aphasiacs across a number of languages.

It wasn't until the Canada Foundation for Innovation recognized the strength of the U of A Department of Linguistics, however, that all of this work was consolidated in the new centre, which opened Nov. 3. The federal funding agency rarely supports projects in the arts, but this time handed over a \$300,000 grant, which was matched by the Alberta Science Research Innovation Program and topped

"The mobile vehicle allows us to do research with people who otherwise would never have been in our experiments. We know a whole lot about how undergraduate university students process language, but much less than we should about language processing among the elderly, among bilinguals in natural settings, and other populations."

— Dr. Gary Libben



Psycholinguistics graduate student Tracy O'Brien wears an eye-tracker, a device that follows the movement of her pupils while she reads text.

up by the Faculty of Arts and central administration to the tune of \$750,000.

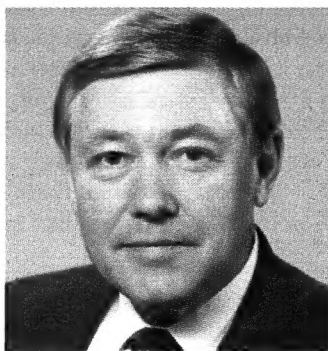
The money will pay for renovated space in the Arts building, technical support staff and equipment, including computers, an eye-tracking device used to follow the movement of pupils as a research subject reads text, and a machine for measuring electrical activity in the brain. And there is the new RV for field research, equipped with lab equipment necessary to

conduct state-of-the-art language analysis among populations never before studied.

"The mobile vehicle allows us to do research with people who otherwise would never have been in our experiments," said Libben. "We know a whole lot about how undergraduate university students process language, but much less than we should about language processing among the elderly, among bilinguals in natural settings, and other populations." ■

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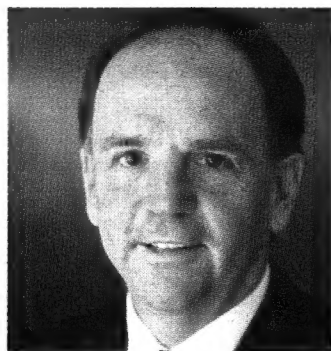
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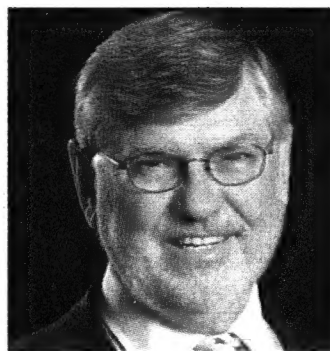
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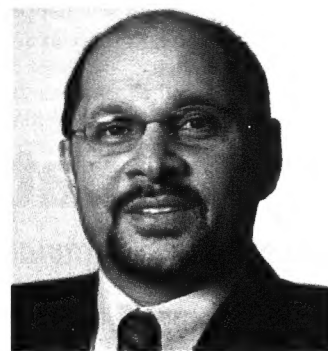
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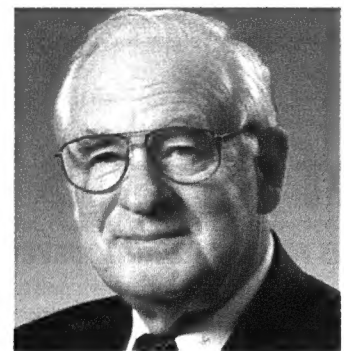
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Maclean's rankings disadvantage Alberta students

Provincial standards are incomparable

By Richard Cairney and Sandra Halme

In spite of an improved showing in this year's *Maclean's* university rankings, the University of Alberta remains critical of the magazine's grading process.

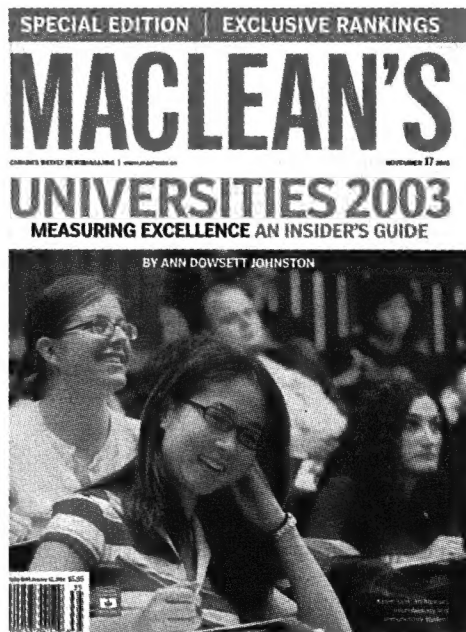
University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr. Carl Amrhein says the national magazine short-changes Alberta students in its annual university rankings edition, when it considers the grades of students entering university.

"Each province has a different standard for awarding grades," said Amrhein. "The *Maclean's* ranking presumes that an 85-per-cent average entering grade for a student in one province equals an 85-per-cent average in another. In fact, when you look at the results of international standardized tests, Alberta students outperform those of other provinces."

Amrhein says if entering grades for first-year university students were to be compared equally, averages in the rest of Canada would have to be adjusted downward, or averages of Alberta students

"Alberta universities are clearly among the country's best. But for the sake of our students, we need to ensure their degrees are recognized as coming from the country's top universities. To have that happen, the rankings need to be fair."

— Dr. Carl Amrhein



increased by about four per cent.

"If you're going to rank universities and by implication, the value of the degree their students earn, you'd better ensure a level playing field," said Amrhein. "To date, that hasn't happened."

According to results from the most recent testing (2000) conducted by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Alberta students scored the highest in the world in reading, third in science and tied for third in mathematics. PISA assesses the international achievement of 15-year-old students under the auspices of the Organization for

Economic Co-operation and Development. The average PISA score across all three categories is 548 in Alberta and 526 in Ontario. However, in the *Maclean's* rankings last year, the reported average university entering grades from high school for the two provinces were virtually the same: 83 per cent.

In the national School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) conducted by Canada's Council of Ministers of Education (CME) between 1999 and 2002, Alberta ranked first in both mathematics and science for the proportion of 16-year-old students meeting standards and third in writing. The CME report also found that students in provinces with external tests, such as Alberta and Quebec, tended to have stronger results than in provinces with little or no provincial testing.

"We're happy to be ranked alongside our peer institutions," Amrhein said. "Alberta universities are clearly among the country's best. But for the sake of our students, we need to ensure their degrees are recognized as coming from the country's top universities. To have that happen, the rankings need to be fair."

In this year's edition of *Maclean's* the U of A jumped to sixth place from seventh overall in the medical-doctoral category, holding its fourth-place spot in reputation, a category which includes a jump to second spot in Leaders of Tomorrow. The university also jumped three spaces in Student Awards to fifth, maintained top spot in library holdings per student and moved

up three places in proportion of operating expenditure to library.

The U of A along with the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge and the provincial government-through Alberta Learning – jointly placed an ad in *Maclean's* detailing the achievements of Alberta's high school students. Amrhein said the three universities will continue to work with the magazine to correct the problem.

Meanwhile, he says, it is becoming more difficult to advance in the rankings because the U of A and its peers are improving "for all the right academic reasons."

And it's the motivation to help students, rather than to advance in what Amrhein dubs "a beauty contest," that counts.

"The U of A has a long history of not trying to play to the survey," he said. "And that is an attitude we should adhere to."

The survey also ranks the U of A's professors near the top in several highly competitive categories. The U of A placed third for the number of faculty members with PhDs, fourth in medical and science research grants, sixth in social sciences and humanities research grants per full-time faculty member from federal granting councils and sixth in awards per full-time faculty.

The U of A placed fourth in scholarships and bursaries as a percentage of expenditures and sixth in student services as a percentage of expenditures. ■

Merger with Augustana one step closer

Letter of intent to provide "foundation" for merger

By Richard Cairney

Representatives of the University of Alberta and Augustana University College in Camrose were scheduled to meet with Learning Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg Nov. 21 to sign a letter of intent to merge.

The notion of a merger arose early this year. Facing financial hardships as a private university, representatives of Augustana approached the U of A with a proposal to arrange some form of union between the two institutions. Attracted by the opportunity to extend its programs to a rural community, and with the strong support of Alberta Learning, the U of A agreed to seriously consider the proposal.

So far, significant steps have been taken

towards the merger. In June, the Camrose Lutheran College Corporation authorized Augustana's Board of Regents to negotiate a merger with the U of A. Days later, the U of A Board of Governors approved, in principle, incorporating Augustana into the U of A with the status of a faculty.

The U of A approval was made under the condition that Augustana's financial liabilities are removed and sufficient operating funding provided to ensure the incorporation does not transfer a financial liability to the U of A.

While the letter of intent does not confirm the merger will happen, it provides the foundation necessary to achieve it and states

that the Learning Minister will work with both institutions and in good faith to accomplish this goal. Pending the funding commitment of the province and subsequent vote of the university's Board of Governors, the legal transfer would occur April 1.

A successful merger would ensure the continuing operation of a rural, degree-granting institution that will help ease growing enrolment pressures for a high-quality undergraduate education. Augustana would be relieved of its financial challenges without losing its recognized Lutheran heritage and continued Lutheran presence.

Founded in 1910, Augustana is located

in Camrose, 90 km southeast of Edmonton. The university college has a population of about 1,000 students enrolled primarily in the liberal arts and sciences. Augustana is a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

From Alberta Learning's perspective, the merger will advance the goals of 'Campus Alberta' and ensure the continuation of an important rural-based, post-secondary campus that has the capacity to expand enrolment and help ease enrolment pressures across the province.

For more detailed and up-to-date information, log onto ExpressNews at the U of A's website: www.ualberta.ca. ■

U of A ranks high in national research report

Campus research funding seven per cent above national average

By Ryan Smith

A report ranking Canadian universities according to research income and output has placed the University of Alberta among the national leaders. Released by a Canadian research and development consulting firm, Research Infosource Inc., the report ranks the U of A fourth in overall research income and fourth in research intensity (research income received per full-time faculty position).

The U of A placed third in a new category called Research Universities of the Year, which measures a university's publishing output against its research income. It takes into account total research income, research funding per full-time faculty position, research funding per graduate student, and the number of articles published in 5,000 leading natural sciences, life sciences, and social sciences research journals.

"This is an outstanding outcome, but

one that we expected from tracking our research successes over the last five years," said Dr. Gary Kachanoski, vice-president (research) at the U of A. "In particular, the third-place showing in the Universities of the Year category proves that investing in research at the U of A is great value for the money."

This is the third year that Research Infosource Inc. has prepared the university research rankings, which are tabulated according to financial data from Statistics Canada. The U of A has finished fourth in the research income rankings each year. However, this year the U of A's percentage of increase was above average. Research revenue rose by 19.5 per cent at the U of A compared to an average of 12.3 per cent at all Canadian universities.

"I think the University of Alberta is on a roll," said Ron Freedman, president of

Research Infosource Inc. "Clearly it is one of Canada's top research universities, and it has excellent prospects for the future."

In 2002 (the year on which the 2003 rankings are based), researchers at the U of A brought in more than \$287 million, or \$199,100 per faculty position. The Canadian university average was \$113,400.

Research income refers to revenue from granting agencies, such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR). It also comes from industry sponsorship or sponsorship from national or international associations. It does not include the core funding for the U of A operating budget, which comes from the provincial government.

Forty per cent of research income at the

U of A comes from federal granting agencies, Kachanoski explained. Twenty-eight per cent comes from provincial granting agencies, 16 per cent from national or international associations, and 15 per cent from national or international industry sponsorship. One per cent comes from endowments and other sources.

Kachanoski added that research income at the U of A supports about 3,200 full and part-time jobs each year. U of A research has produced 81 spin-off companies, which have produced a combined total of \$190 million in private investment and more than 1,000 jobs. Three-quarters of these jobs remain in the Edmonton area.

"Approximately 70 per cent of all research money coming into the U of A comes from sources outside of Alberta," Kachanoski said. "This is obviously a tremendous benefit to the local economy." ■

talks & events

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/ualberta/L2.cfm?c=10>**

NOV 21 2003

Biological Sciences Department of Biological Sciences Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group and Genetics 605 Seminar Series. Kirsten Guss, Dickinson College, PA is presenting a seminar on "Function of the selector gene scalloped during Drosophila development" 3:30 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Host: John Bell. Website: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre Health Ethics Seminars. Ethics In Hard Places: The Ecology of Safer Systems in Modern Health Care. Presenter: Patricia Marck, RN, PhD Professional Practice Leader, Nursing, Royal Alexandra Hospital Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta Adjunct Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Location: 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre. Website: www.ualberta.ca/bioethics

Department of Music University of Alberta Opera Scenes, Alan Ord, Director. Works by Mozart, Donizetti, Bizet, Moore and Rossini. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

Livestock Handling and Quality Assurance Lecture Dr. Temple Grandin presents lecture at 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She is an Assoc. Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University; Scientific Advisor to the U.S. Food Marketing Inst. and the National Council of Chain Restaurants, Auditor Trainer and Scientific Advisor to McDonald's and Burger King; and Consultant and designer of livestock handling facilities. For more info on Dr. Grandin see www.grandin.com Topic: "Auditing of the critical control points of handling helps to insure good animal welfare and preserves meat quality. People manage what they measure!" For more info on the event and details of presentation see: www.afns.ualberta.ca - look under(upcoming events)! Location: Lilydale Classroom, Alberta Poultry Research and Technology Centre, Edmonton Research Station, 60th Ave and 115 Street. Website: www.afns.ualberta.ca

NOV 22 2003

The Academic Support Centre Strategies for Learning Anatomy & Physiology. From 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. \$30. Covers strategies for learning information presented in anatomy and physiology courses. Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

History and Medicine: A Marriage of Relevance The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Faculty of Arts present: History and Medicine: A Marriage of Relevance. A workshop to address the issue of how to incorporate history into the medical curriculum, how to make it relevant to today's students of medicine. Classroom D, 2F1.04, Walter Mackenzie Centre, 8 a.m. Registration is free, but participants must be pre-registered to attend. For more information, please see website <http://www.ualberta.ca/CME/history/history.pdf>

NOV 24 2003

General Faculties Council General Faculties Council (GFC). BUSINESS ARISING: Administrative Information Systems (AIS) Response to "Travel and Expenses" Queries; NEW BUSINESS: Academic Plan for 2003-2006 from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic); GFC Workplan and the 2004-2005 GFC Meeting Schedule. Location: Council Chamber, University Hall. 2:00 p.m.

Department of Cell Biology Visiting Speaker Dr. Patrick Provost, Assistant Professor, Centre de Recherche en Rhumatologie et Immunologie, Université Laval. Title of Talk: 'Molecular characterization of human and S. pombe Dicer', 9:30-10:30 a.m., Seminar Room 5-10 Medical Sciences Building. Website: www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences 2003 Henry Darcy Distinguished Lecture. Ground and surface water contributions to chemical mass discharge: Considering the problem at field and basin scales. Dr. Richelle Allen-King, University at Buffalo (SUNY) Location: 3-36 Tory. 4:00 p.m. Website: <http://www.ngwa.org/ngwef/darcy.html>

NOV 25 2003

Religious Studies Globalization of Christianity Colloquium. Prof. Sylvia Brown, Department of English (U of A) will give the second lecture in the Globalization of Christianity colloquium series on the topic "Love among the barbarians: Mapping the affective and geographical worlds of 17th century Quaker women missionaries." Time: 3:30-4:45. Place: Humanities Centre (HC) room 4-29.

The Academic Support Centre More Effective Time Management. From 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. \$20. Covers strategies for making the most effective use

of your time. Learn how to pace yourself so that you have time to get everything done! Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

Department of Music University Symphony Orchestra. Concerto Competition Finals. Free admission. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

NOV 26 2003

Department of Music Student Composers Concert. (Music 259). Studio 27, Fine Arts Building. 4:30 p.m. Free admission.

Academic Technologies for Learning The Streetprint Engine: Creating Digital Collections for Research, Sharing, and Teaching. Join us for a tour of the Streetprint Engine, developed in the CRC Studio (<http://www.crcstudio.arts.ualberta.ca>) in the English Dept at the U of A, a revolutionary new system for creating, archiving and managing digital collections. Presenters: Gary Kelly, Matthew Ogle, Chris Govias, Matt Bouchard, TELUS 219, Wed, Nov 26, 2003; 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free, but please register at <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca> Location: TELUS Centre. Website: <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca>

The Academic Support Centre Make the Best Use of Your Memory. From 2-3 p.m. \$20. Covers strategies for retaining information you learn so that you can be effective on exams. Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

Department of Music The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble, William H Street, Director. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

Biological Sciences Dr. Zoltan Gombos, Post-Doctorate, Biological Sciences, University of Alberta presents "Structure and function of calcectin: A neuronal intracellular Ca2+ sensor." Part of the Biology 642 Seminar Series in Physiology & Cell and Developmental Biology. Location: G-110, Biological Sciences Building. Time: 12 noon. Website: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/biol642/?Page=2577>

Department of Medical Genetics Rounds speaker presentation. Dr. Ravi Bhargava from the Radiology & Diagnostic Imaging department, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry will present "Fetal MRI: A new frontier in prenatal diagnosis" with the objective of reviewing the role of MRIs in assessing prenatal abnormalities, looking at the unique features of MRI imaging that may help in prenatal diagnosis and giving the audience our latest info on fetal MRI research in Edmonton. Time: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Location: 2-07 HMRC.

Department of Public Health Sciences PHS Grand Rounds. Dr Doug Wilson, Professor Emeritus and Dr David G. Moores, Professor, Department of Family Medicine "What's Up With Primary Health Care?" Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. 12:00 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Website: www.phs.ualberta.ca

Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Society Lecture by Andy Derocher, Biological Sciences on "Polar bears: past, present, and future". Monthly seminar of the University of Alberta chapter of Sigma Xi. Open to all. Reception begins at 4:30 p.m., seminar begins at 4:45 p.m. Location: M-145, Biological Sciences (use main entrance on east side, then down one floor using stairs on your left).

NOV 27 2003

Department of Music University of Alberta Jazz Choir: Happnin'. Liana Bob, Conductor. Education Building room 1-115. 7:00 p.m.

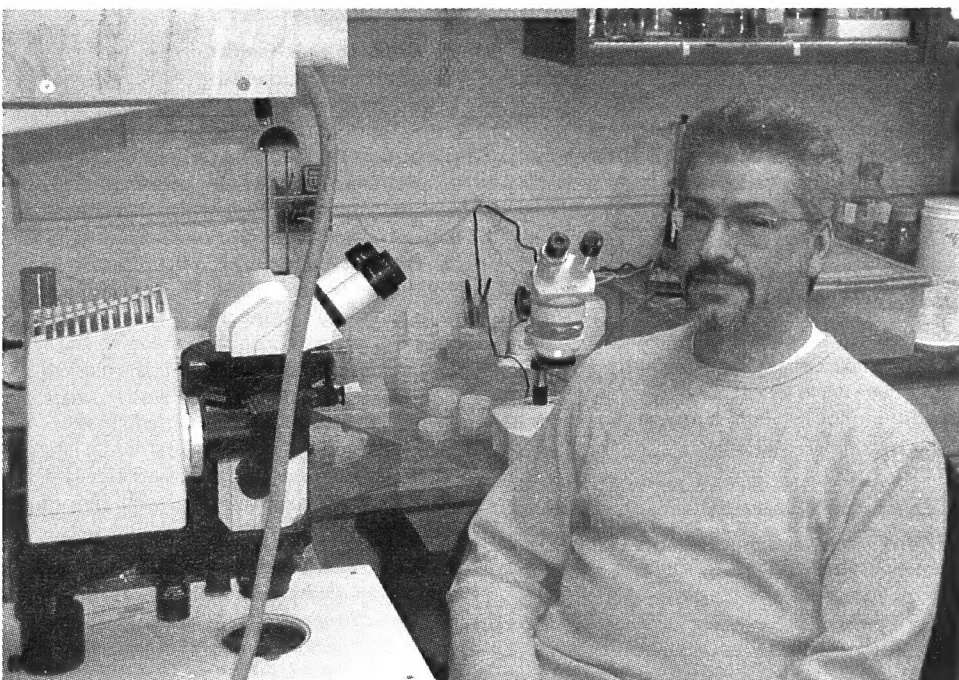
Charting the Future of Agriculture Department of Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science presents: "Challenges to European Agriculture and Food" by Dr Liam Donnelly, Director, Moorepark Food Research, Teagasc Moorepark Fermoy Company, Cork, Ireland at 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Maple Leaf Room - Lister Centre, U of A Conference Centre, 87th Avenue - 116 Street, University of Alberta Campus. Refreshments and Cash Bar to follow presentation. For more information please contact: Sharon Katzeff Tel (780) 492-0379 or e-mail: sharon.katzeff@ualberta.ca - NOTE: This presentation is open to the public! For more details on Dr. Donnelly please see www.afns.ualberta.ca - Upcoming Events!

NOV 27 - 28 2003

Library Craft Sale Annual Library Craft Sale. November 27 and 28, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free Admission/Door prizes. Location: Prof. Emeriti Reading Room, 3-03 Cameron Library.

NOV 28 2003

Biological Sciences Ivan Sadowski, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of British Columbia, "The function of CDK8 in eukaryotic gene regulation", at 3:



Dr. David Pilgrim and his colleagues have discovered that nematode worms are able to change their sex in order to improve the odds of mating.

Sex in the soil

Researchers discover worm's ability to change sex

By Phoebe Dey

If you think people are obsessed with mating, wait until you hear about the nematode worm.

A team of University of Alberta researchers has discovered that mating is so important to the nematode worm that it will change its sex to increase its chances of finding partners – a striking example of nurture changing nature.

"We all know that we can alter our behaviour, depending on the environment in which we are raised," said Dr. David Pilgrim, from the U of A Department of Biological Sciences. "But it was thought that our basic genetic makeup is unaltered by these effects. What we have now shown is that our nature, our genes, may be altered by our nurture, the environment."

Pilgrim, Dr. Veena Prahlad, and Dr. Elizabeth Goodwin have published their results in the prestigious journal, *Science*. Prahlad was a post-doctoral student in Pilgrim's lab before moving to the University of Wisconsin, where she completed the work under Goodwin's eye.

Like humans, the female nematode worm bears XX chromosomes, but the male nematode has only a single X. The team showed that the sex ratio, the percentage of males and females, could be altered depending on the amount of food the animal senses is available.

When the young female is still too young to display any sexual characteristics, it judges how much food will be available when it grows up. If it thinks there will be a lot of food when it is sexually mature, a significant number of XX animals will lose one of their X chromosomes, making them genetically male. If they think food will be scarce, they will keep their XX chromo-

somes and grow up to be female.

Also, the female, actually a hermaphrodite because it can produce sperm as well as egg, can self-fertilize if it doesn't find a male, but in this case the offspring can only be female (XX). However, nearly 99 per cent of the nematode population is hermaphrodite, and if the population density is high, as it would be near food, then there is a benefit to being a male as the chances of finding a female partner are higher. If the population density is low, then the worm is safer being a female since she can still have offspring even if she never meets another animal.

"The trick comes in being able to estimate whether the food will be plentiful or not when it is ready to reproduce, because it needs to make the decision to be male or female well before that," said Pilgrim. "This research helps understand how animals adapt to a variable environment, and to a certain extent, why sex exists. What is also noteworthy is that nobody in the past 30 years had ever noticed this before. Dr. Prahlad did some careful experiments to find it."

The nematode is a favourite species used by researchers to answer basic questions about sex and reproduction. The small creature, known as *Caenorhabditis elegans*, lives in the soil and feeds off bacteria. It is tiny, less than the thickness of a human hair, but it offers huge benefits to science. Researchers can watch biological processes taking place inside the animal because of its clear skin. And the animal matures quickly, going from embryo to adult in just four days.

Pilgrim's work was supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). ■

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The E Team

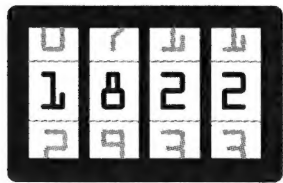
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30 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Host: Neil Adames. Website: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/index.php?Page=2567>

Department of English Department Fondling Books Series. Michael Epp and Michelle Smith will present at 3:30 p.m. Location: HC L-3. Website: www.humanities.ualberta.ca/english

Department of Music Cello Masterclass Friedrich Gauwerky. Studio 27, Fine Arts Building. General admission: \$15. 7:30 p.m.

Department of Music University of Alberta Concert Choir, Debra Cairns, Conductor. Program will include works by Pitoni, Kuhnau, Mendelssohn, Sandström, Kodály, Sirett, Johanson and others. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

NOV 29 2003

The Academic Support Centre Exam Strategies. 10 a.m. - 12 noon. \$30. Covers how to study for and take multiple choice, short answer, essay & problem solving exams. Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

Department of Music CANCELLED University of Alberta Madrigal Singers. 8:00 p.m.

The Academic Support Centre Study Strategies. From 1-4 p.m. \$40. Covers time management, note-taking, reading & memory strategies. Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

UNTIL NOV 29 2003

Department of Art and Design A & D INDEX: Staff Show 2. This exhibition presents selected works by members of the Department of Art and Design. The Opening Reception for this exhibition will be held at the Fine Arts Building Gallery on Thursday, November 20, 2003, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Location: Fine Arts Building Gallery, room 1-1 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta campus, 112 street and 89 avenue, Edmonton.

NOV 29 - 30 2003

Crafters Christmas Sale Devonian Botanic Garden. Fine hand-made floral and botanical products will be for sale. Gifts available for everyone on your Christmas list! The Shop-In-The-Garden will also be open to the public. Free admission to the Crafters sale and viewing of the Garden. Call Visitor Services for further information (780) 987-3054. This event will be held 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: 5 km north of Devon on Hwy 60. Web site: www.discoveredmonton.com/devonian

NOV 30 2003

Department of Music University of Alberta Concert Band, Ray Baril, Director, Po-Yuan Ku, Graduate Assistant Conductor. Featuring wind ensemble literature by Percy Grainger, Clifton Williams, Howard Hanson, Richard Wagner, Henry Fillmore, Roger Cichy and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Convocation Hall. 2:00 p.m.

Department of Music University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra, Tanya Prochazka, Conductor, Bedrich Smetana Overture to the "The Bartered Bride" ("Prodaná Nevesta"), Niccolò Paganini Concerto No. 1 in D for violin and orchestra, Op.6 Soloist Guillaume Tardif Hector Berlioz Symphonie fantastique, Op. 14. Convocation Hall. 8:00 p.m.

DEC 02 2003

The Academic Support Centre How to Improve Your Study Time. From 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. \$20. Covers strategies for making your study time more effective. Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

The Academic Support Centre Exam Writing Tips. From 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon. \$5. Covers tips for taking exams. Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

DEC 03 2003

Department of Public Health Sciences PHS Grand Rounds. Dr A Senthilselvan, Professor "Medication Use Following Discharge from First Asthma Hospitalization." Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. 12:00 Noon - 12:50 p.m.

notices

Please send notices attention Folio, 6th floor General Services Building, University of Alberta, T6G 2H1 or e-mail public.affairs@ualberta.ca. Notices should be received by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication.

EFF: MCCALLA PROFESSORSHIPS SMALL FACULTIES - APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are invited from continuing faculty from the Faculties of Extension, Law, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physical Education and Recreation, Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculté Saint-Jean, School of Native Studies, Interdisciplinary Research Units.

Website: www.phs.ualberta.ca

Hear's to your Health Concert Series The Department of Music and the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry present: Hear's to your Health Concert Series. Time: 5:00 p.m., in Bernard Snell Hall, main entrance on 112 Street, University of Alberta Hospital. In its second season, this innovative collaboration brings the healing power of music to the hospital setting. The public is invited to attend this free chamber music concert. The program called "Folk Influences" will include Rhapsody No. 1, for violin and piano by Bartok, Four movements for piano trio by Bright Sheng and the Piano Trio in C major, op. 87 by Brahms. World class musicians from the Department of Music: Tanya Prochazka, cello and Patricia Tao, piano will perform with guest artist and ESO concertmaster Martin Riseley. For more information contact: Gladys Odegard, 487-4188, gladysco@shaw.ca Location: Bernard Snell Hall, University Hospital.

The Academic Support Centre Assess Your Learning Strengths. From 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. \$20. Take the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory and find out how your learning strategies can be improved. Location: 2-725 SUB. Must pre-register at 2-703 SUB.

DEC 04 2003

Orientation to the University Orientation to the University. Are you a new staff member at the University? Want answers to your questions and to talk with colleagues with similar experiences? A solid orientation session will give you the answers and the confidence you desire as you start your new job! Staff Learning & Development is hosting Orientation to the University for both Academic and Support Staff on from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. By attending this orientation session you will have the opportunity to: Hear what U of A leaders have to say about our mission and vision; Learn about contracts and professional development opportunities; Enjoy a complimentary lunch, network and win great prizes! Visit the Information Marketplace with more than 20 campus service providers. If you have worked at the UofA for awhile, but have not attended a previous orientation, you are welcome to attend. ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. For more information, or to download a registration form, visit: <http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/orientation> or contact Cathy Olson, Program Co-ordinator, at 492-0901. Location: Lister Hall. Website: www.hrs.ualberta.ca/orientation

Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Dr. Myron Kapral, Institute of Archeography, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Lviv Branch, will give a lecture on "Ethnic Communities in Lviv: Socio-Legal Relations (16th-18th Centuries)." The lecture will be given in Ukrainian. For more information contact 492-2972. Location: Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall. 3:30 p.m.

History and Classics Colloquium Series. Diana Davidson (U of A) From 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. HC L3. The Aids Quilt as a Site of Pilgrimage and Activism. Co-sponsored with English.

DEC 05 2003

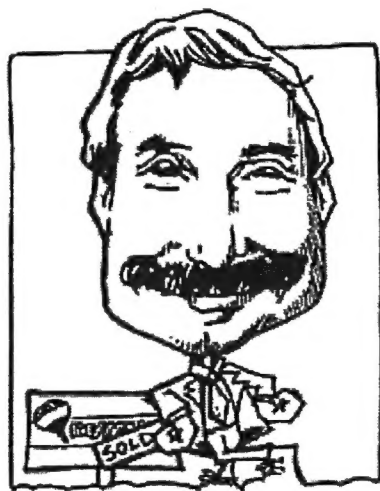
Biological Sciences Department of Biological Sciences Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group and Genetics 605 Seminar Series. David Evans, Medical Microbiology and Immunology with the University of Alberta is presenting a seminar on "Poxviruses: Replication, recombination, and DNA repair." 4:00 p.m. in Room M-149 of the Biological Sciences Building. Host: John Bell. Website: <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

UNTIL DEC 06 2003

Studio Theatre Better Living by George F. Walker. A dark comedy about the mythological Canadian family. Evening shows: 8:00 p.m., Matinee, December 4: 12:30 p.m. No show Sunday. Location: Studio Theatre, Timms Centre for the Arts.

UNTIL DEC 23 2003

Christmas Tree Sales The Forest Society will be selling Christmas trees in the Parking Lot of Corbett Hall. 10 per cent of the proceeds will be donated to the University of Alberta United Way Campaign. Come out and buy your tree early! Location: Corbett Hall Parking Lot. Website: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/unitedway



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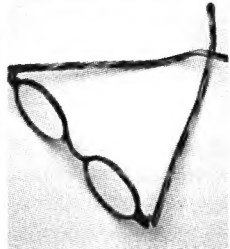
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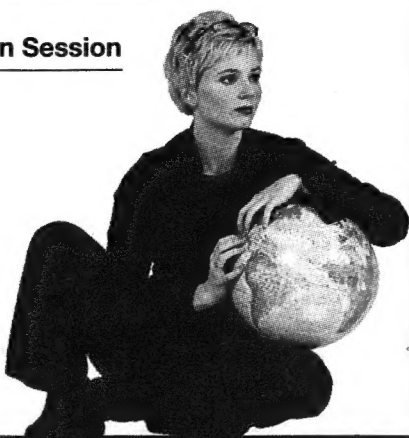
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- **The Scientific Magazine Writer**
Ed Struzik, Tues., Feb. 3, 8 evenings
- **Advanced Grammar and Writing Skills**
Andrea Collins, Wed., Feb. 4, 8 evenings
- **Creative Fiction Workshop: Works-in-Progress**
Shani Mootoo, Wed., Feb. 4, 8 evenings
- **A Practical Guide to Proofreading**
Kathy Garnsworthy, Sat., Feb. 28, 1 day



For more details, call
780.492.3093

www.extension.ualberta.ca/arts

positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit www.hrs.ualberta.ca

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING OFFICER (LATIN AMERICA)

University of Alberta International (UAI) plays a pivotal role in the international activities of the University of Alberta. UAI works with students and faculties in pursuing innovative learning, research and collaborative opportunities which include assisting students in meeting their international goals, building academic partnerships and engaging in programs with industries, governments and funding agencies.

An exciting opportunity exists for an individual to join our team of professionals in the position of international marketing officer (Latin America). Reporting to the co-ordinator international education marketing, the international marketing officer is responsible for detailed investigation and market reports of indi-

vidual countries within the region for the purpose of increasing recruitment of students to undergraduate, graduate, English as a Second Language and other programs at the University of Alberta. The international marketing officer will provide support to faculties, programs and administrative units that are engaged in international recruitment activities.

Responsibilities include:

- Develop and maintain country-specific market reports and marketing strategies within the framework of the overall international marketing plan.
- Provide marketing support to faculty administrators and recruiters, including region-specific market intelligence and country-specific strategies.
- Provide logistical support to faculties and administrative units engaged in international recruitment. This may include organization of promo-

tional and/or recruitment events in particular countries/regions.

- Manage networks of contacts related to the University of Alberta's marketing in the region.
- Identify barriers to recruitment and/or admission of students from the region and suggest effective administrative solutions and marketing strategies.

Applicants must have a degree in marketing, supplemented with 2-3 years related practical experience. Travel and business experience in the region is a must. Fluency in Spanish is required; knowledge of French and/or Portuguese is an asset. The successful candidate will require excellent communication and organizational skills with a proven ability to manage multiple projects. Strong research, analytical and writing skills are necessary. Computer literacy in

word-processing and databases a must. Travel to the region will be required.

This full-time Administrative/Professional Officer position has a salary range of \$41,100 to \$68,500 commensurate with qualifications and experience. Appointment will be for a one-year term with extension subject to performance and funding availability.

Letters of interest, including a résumé and names of three professional references should be submitted no later than Friday, December 5th to Marjorie Cayford, Executive Officer, University of Alberta International, 1204 College Plaza, 8215 - 112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2C8. Fax: 780-492-1488.

E-mail: marj.cayford@ualberta.ca. Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest; however only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. No telephone calls please.

the art of giving

Online art auction rounds out United Way campaign

By Geoff McMaster

Ever dream of owning a print by a celebrated Canadian artist such as Ted Harrison, Robert Bateman or Alex Janvier?

An online auction last week offered the chance to get a good deal on a piece of art and raise money for the United Way.

All of the art will be on display at the U of A Bookstore in the Students' Union Building. Bidding will begin at 9 p.m. on Nov. 6 and close Nov. 20. Edmonton residents can simply log on to CampusAuctionMarket.com to register.

All of the art, worth about \$10,000, was provided by an anonymous donor who had decided to replace the art in his/her home. There were 15 pieces up for auction, including work by Harrison, Bateman, Janvier, Gunila, Grant Leier, Rick Beaver, Alberta deCastro, Sharon Baillie, Rhonda Franks, Taylor Stonington, Elaine Fleming, and Jacqueline Stenberg.

"In changing some of our artwork, we thought this would be a way to have these relatively inexpensive pieces enjoyed by

new owners, while at the same time help the United Way," the donor said.

CampusAuctionMarket.com is a free Internet service set up by Dr. Peter Popkowski Lesczy of the U of A School of Business to learn more about the behaviour of people who use online auctions.

"I was contacted by (U of A United Way campaign coordinator) Lorna Hallam, who said she had received all this art. So I said, 'Well, we have the means of doing this'," Popkowski said.

Popkowski added that his site has done smaller charity auctions in the past, and the United Way auction looked like a great way to expand the site.

About 1,500 have registered on CampusAuctionMarket.com since it was launched in September 2003.

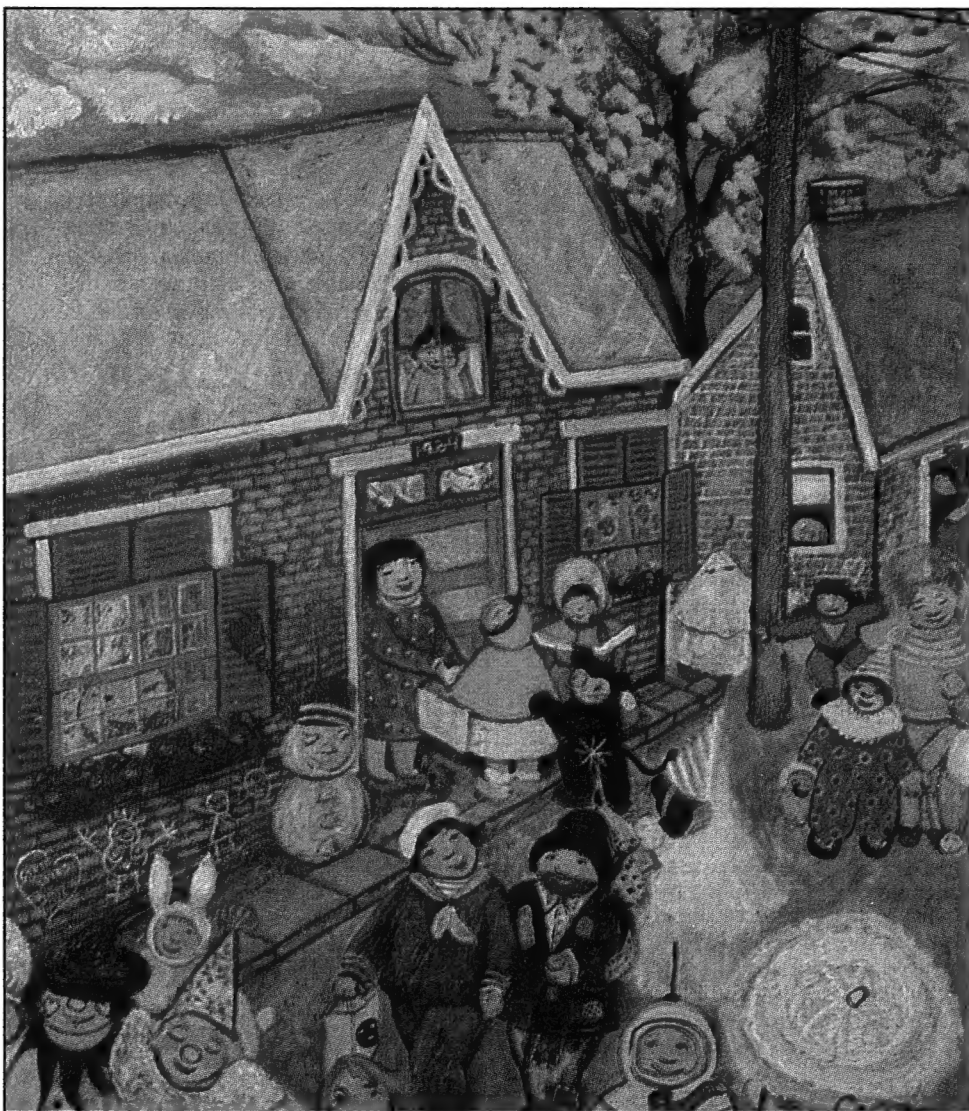
The campus United Way campaign has so far raised about \$410,000, Hallam said. The goal is to beat last year's total of \$431,000 by the end of the campaign this month. ■



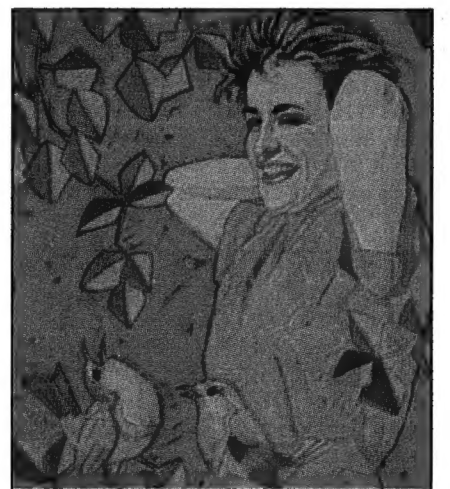
Ted Harrison's Duchess



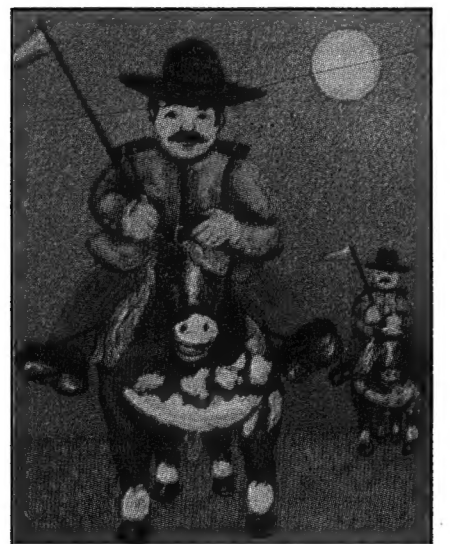
Detail from Trumpeter Swans by Robert Bateman



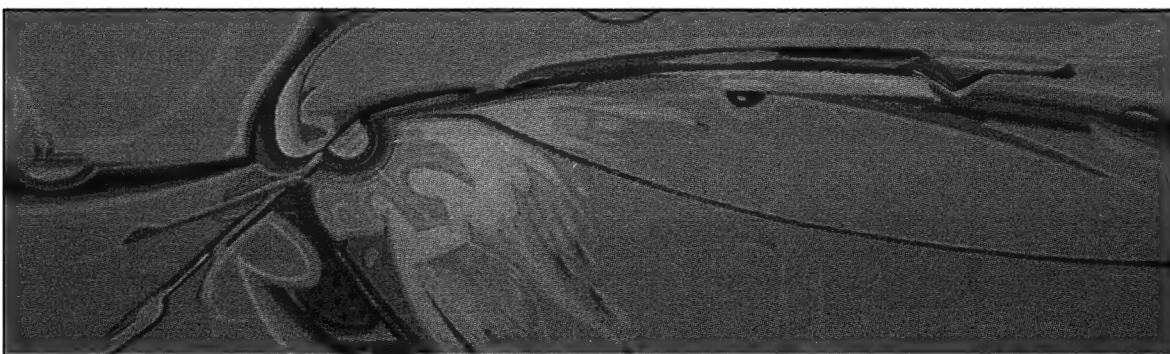
Sandy Loves Paul by Alberta deCastro; and top: Clown Cookie Jar by Jacqueline Stenberg



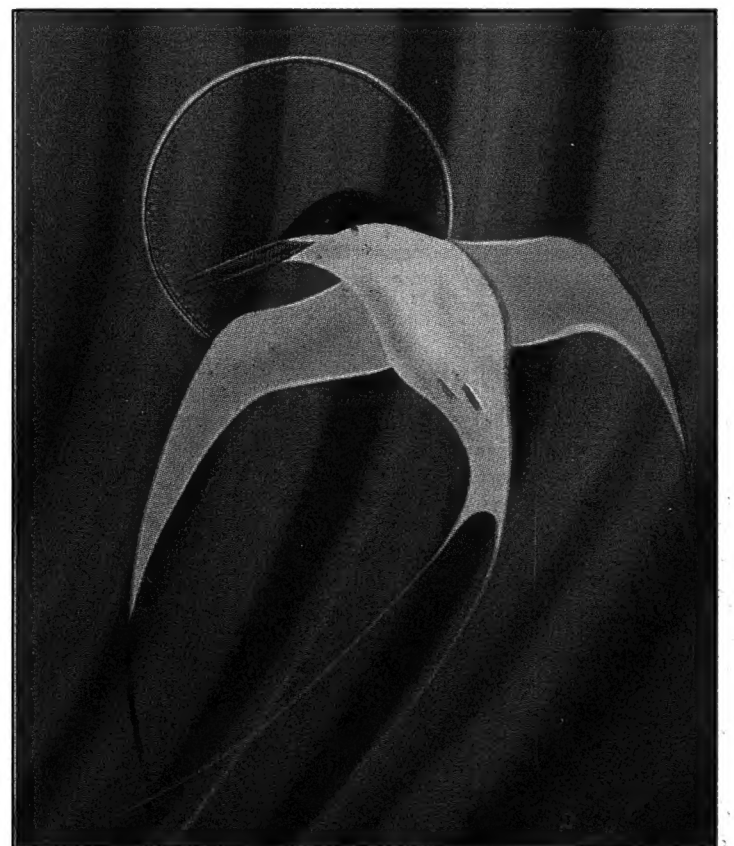
Detail from Spring Romance, Grant Leier



Alberta deCastro's Mountie



Detail from Alex Janvier's English Bay 1



Rick Beaver's No Sky Too Stormy

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